

EASINGTON RURAL DISTRICT

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year ending December 31, 1895

WINGATE,

February, 1896.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my Report of Sanitary Work and Vital Statistics for the year ending 31st December, 1895.

During the year, 842 deaths occurred and 1747 births were registered.

The death rate was 19.53 per thousand of population, against 20.43, the average death rate for the previous fifteen years.

The birth rate was 40.53 per thousand of population, against 40.78, the average of the previous fifteen years.

The death rate is 48.18 per cent. of the birth rate, against 50.56, the average of the previous fifteen years.

The number of deaths under five years of age was 463, being 54.98 per cent. of the total deaths, against 52.37, the average of the previous fifteen years.

The number of deaths under one year to 1000 births was 182, against 163, the average for the previous fourteen years.

15 deaths were of persons over 80 years of age—8 males, with an average of 85.6 years, and 7 females, with an average of 85 years.

205 deaths occurred in the first quarter, 169 in the second, 257 in the third, and 211 in the fourth.

Of the 53 deaths at Easington, 27 were at the Workhouse—2 of infants, 3 middle-aged persons of phthisis, and the rest mainly from diseases incident to old age.

The deaths from the principal zymotic diseases were 1.33 per 1000 of population, against 2.45, the average for the previous fourteen years. They were :

	Under 5	Over 5	Total
Measles... ..	8	—	8
Whooping Cough	12	1	13
Scarlatina	5	—	5
Diphtheria	1	—	1
Membranous Croup	3	2	5
Typhus Fever	—	1	1
Enteric Fever	1	16	17
Continued Fever	1	3	4
Puerperal Fever	—	4	4
	—	—	—
	31	27	58

SMALLPOX.—One case of this occurred during the year. In March, I received information that a member of a theatrical company coming to Wingate had been suffering from this. An inquiry on their arrival resulted in the discovery of the case in a child. It was mild, as the child had been well vaccinated, but the more dangerous as it might have escaped detection before giving infection to others. It was removed to the Infectious Hospital, isolation of the other persons in the house secured, while they were kept under observation, and thorough disinfection performed. No other case resulted.

MEASLES.—From October, 1894, the district was quite free from this disease until May, 1895, when it appeared at Thornley, to the extent of about 80 cases, causing 4 deaths. In the last quarter it appeared at Kelloe, and very extensively at Murton, causing 3 deaths. Beyond this it has not appeared in an epidemic form to any extent anywhere in the district.

WHOOPIING COUGH.—This, though to a less extent than during 1894, has existed throughout the district generally, with exacerbations during the cold weather, but never assumed an epidemic form.

SCARLATINA.—After the very fatal epidemic in 1878, the next serious incidence of this disease in epidemic form was in 1893, when there were 587 cases, and a case mortality of 5 per cent. This was continued into 1894 by 429 cases and a case

mortality of 4 per cent. During last year this epidemic existed in every populous village except Murton and Thornley. The severity or mildness at each village was the exact reverse of its incidence in 1894. The number of cases was 252, and the mortality 2 per cent. The epidemic followed the same law that it did the previous year, viz., there were fewest cases in warm weather, and most cases in cold weather, when children mixed more, and closer together. The stamping out of this disease is difficult, almost impossible. It cannot be done without isolation; this cannot be obtained in a cottage, and villagers will not allow their children to go to a hospital. School-closing does not keep children apart, and the infection continues so long, even when the patient is apparently well. In a few cases the requisite amount of duration of isolation can be secured, but generally it can only be stopped by expending itself naturally. This it has done both in extent and severity, as the figures for the past three years show very clearly.

DIPHTHERIA.—A case of this appeared at Castle Eden, in April, in a boy. There was clear evidence of infection from an outside source, from where he returned two days previous. At Shotton, at the same time, a woman complained of sore throat, and an infant in the same house died very quickly, apparently from the same affection. The child was very debilitated, and the house very dirty. In October, a girl was notified as having this, but it was not distinctly marked.

MEMBRANOUS CROUP.—This is a very rare disease. It often gets mixed up with Laryngismus Stridulus. In one of the five cases I think it did. In all the others it was intimately associated with Scarlet Fever.

TYPHUS FEVER.—A case of this appeared at Haswell, in April, in a man who had been off work for some time and was very destitute. A neighbour, also destitute, and who had been much with him, also took it. The other case was in a tramp who had passed some weeks in a house at Thornley alone, very filthy and very destitute. All three were sent to the Infectious Hospital, and no other cases resulted from them.

ENTERIC FEVER.—The year began with an epidemic of 1894 dying out. This year it appeared in every locality except Kelloe. There were 87 cases, with a case mortality of 19 per cent. The incidence per 1000 of population varied from 0.6 to 3.1. There were 7 cases in the first quarter, 11 in the second, 20 in the third, and 49 in the fourth—the reverse of the previous year.

Enquiry was made in every case to discover, if possible, the source of origin, and any conditions that might be combated. In solitary cases this could sometimes be done. The results of these enquiries, in the order in which the cases appeared, are as follow :—

At Castle Eden, in January, a case occurred in

a house free from any sanitary defect ; but, thirteen days before, the patient had returned from a fortnight's stay outside the district where it was undoubtedly got. Another case, there, six months afterwards, defied all enquiry as to its origin. At Hawthorn, in February, there were two cases. The water supply had been previously found to be sufficiently polluted to cause them, and was condemned, but another supply had not at that time been obtained. At Castle Eden Colliery village, in March, the first case occurred. The water supply there is limited to what is brought in carts from a mile distant, and any other source is used when obtainable. The next place attacked was Haswell, in March. Here the first case was brought home, ill, from outside, to a house where they were badly off ; the second case was in the same house. The case at Easington, in May, was in the person of the attendant at the Infectious Hospital, which needs no explanation. At South Hetton, the first case was in May. The only possible source of this was, that the patient was in the habit of sitting for hours at a time beside a stinking sewage stream. At Murton, the first case was in June, and this patient also was brought home ill, from outside. At Seaham, the first case appeared in June, but no clue of any kind could be found that would lead to the detection of its origin. At Shotton, the first case appeared in August. No information could be obtained from the family, beyond that the family of four adults and one child all slept in one room,

although there were three in the house, and this sleeping-room was in a very filthy condition. At Hurworthburn, a solitary case appeared in August. This man came there from Sunderland, after he had taken ill. At Thornley, the first case appeared on 30th August; this also came home ill from Sunderland. At Station Town, the first case occurred in September, and no cause could in this case be assigned. At Trimdon, the first case appeared in October, and its origin could not be traced. In November, a solitary case appeared at a farm near Murton, which could be traced to working among town manure from Sunderland.

The year began with the disease almost extinct, or at least in abeyance owing to climatic conditions. The first cases in twelve localities are given here. Five were directly imported, Castle Eden, Haswell, Hurworth, Thornley and Murton. Two originated directly from water supply at Hawthorn and Castle Eden Colliery, and four were possibly from germs existing from the previous year at South Hetton, Trimdon, Seaham and Shotton. In July there was not any case. In August it took a really epidemic form; this was when the hot weather set in and diarrhoea became prevalent. These two diseases invariably co-exist, but Enteric Fever reached its height in October, when there were 26 new cases, and these were in the more populous localities where it had been introduced. No connection whatever could be made between the disease and milk supply.

Excepting Hawthorn and Castle Eden Colliery, the drinking water was above suspicion.

There can be no doubt that the subsequent cases at each locality were the result of infection from the first case, either directly from the filthy condition of the linen, bedding and room of the patient, as illustrated by two or more cases in one house, or directly from the discharges deposited in the ashpit. The contents of the ashpit are easily brought into contact with food in the house by the enormous number of flies that swarmed about at that time.

The practical outcome of these inquiries teaches us the means by which prevention is to be attained, and that is, to look after the first case and observe the following precautions : First, isolation of the patient in the house, or preferably the hospital ; second, scrupulous cleanliness of the patient and his surroundings ; third, efficient disinfection of the patient's discharges before removal. These are the duties of the individual, and they must be followed up by a good water supply, and efficient scavenging. That these items are not attended to we know, and hence the disease exists.

CONTINUED FEVER.—These cases appeared throughout the year equally, only slightly increasing at the same time as the Enteric Fever. Like that disease the number was much less than the two previous years. The case mortality was higher

than usual, 9.3 per cent, though they were generally mild, of short duration, and diarrhœa was quite absent.

DIARRHŒA.—This affection was markedly prevalent from August to October, the same time as Enteric Fever. The meteorological conditions that facilitate the spread of fever cause diarrhœa. Except two very old people, all the deaths were of children under five years. The fatality is largely increased by improper feeding, which infants are less able to combat than adults.

The deaths, the highest except 1893 for 13 years, were 6.41 per cent. of the total deaths, against 4.15 the average of the previous twelve years.

PUERPERAL FEVER.—There were four deaths from this out of six cases notified ; both figures show a considerable and pleasing improvement on the three previous years.

The death rate from Phthisis was 1.27 per 1000 of population, and from respiratory diseases 2.94. The former is just the average of previous years, the latter is lower.

The Infectious Hospital has been kept in readiness throughout the year, and there has been received into it 1 case of Smallpox, 3 of Typhus Fever, and 5 of Enteric. A new ambulance has been procured. The question of enlarging the Hospital accommodation has been under consideration but has not yet been definitely determined.

SANITARY WORK EXECUTED.—This work was much interrupted by your Surveyor being ill four months of the year from fever contracted while removing a case to Hospital. An Assistant Sanitary Inspector was employed to attend to that part of the work.

Your Council agreed to further undertake the work of scavenging and ashpit removal in one section of the district occupied wholly by private property. This experiment will determine whether that can be done best by the Council or left to private individuals.

Hawthorn.—120 yards of 6-inch sewers have been constructed for the drainage of the higher part of the village, with settling tanks for its reception and purification.

Trimdon Foundry.—300 yards of 9-inch sewers have been constructed for some of the property there which connect with it by trapped sinks.

Easington.—800 yards of 9-inch sewers have been laid for the north end of the village where there was previously no close-drain system. This empties into a system of settling tanks from which the overflow entered a stream. The previously good water was used by cattle in the fields, and to overcome its pollution 850 yards of 9-inch sewers were laid to convey the overflow from the tanks, clear of the stream, to another watercourse not used.

Shotton Village.—400 yards of 9-inch sewers have been constructed with a branch drain and trapped sink to each house. This completes the sewage system for that village begun the year before. Your Council has also given instructions for considerable sewerage at Wingate Lane and at Wheatley Hill. At this last

place, the beck passing along the lower part of the village has been cleaned and further excavated.

At South Hetton three streets have been excavated to the depth of 15 inches and the channeling reconstructed with new material.

At Wingate 43 of the old cottages have been rebuilt, the floors raised, the walls heightened and their condition considerably improved.

ASHPIT AND PRIVY ACCOMMODATION.—This work goes steadily on, and, though not so fast as might be desired, the following additions have been made during the year :

At South Hetton 32 houses have been provided with ashpit and privy ; Haswell Lane, 24 houses ; South Wingate, 10 houses ; Thornley, 30 houses ; Wingate Lane, 20 houses ; and Wheatley Hill, 200 houses.

NEW PROPERTY.—At Murton Colliery 24 colliery houses and 4 private houses have been built ; at Wingate, 3 houses ; at South Wingate, 2 houses ; at Deaf Hill, 12 houses ; at Haswell, 3 houses ; here, 6 old houses, on which closing orders had been served, were rebuilt. These were all built from plans approved by your Council, and in conformity with the bye-laws.

WATER SUPPLY.--The scheme mentioned for Easington, of supplying that place from Sunderland and South Shields Water Company, was completed and opened for use early in October. It is working very satisfactorily.

At Wingate a new Water Company is now in course of construction which will embrace Station Lane and a large portion of Castle Eden hitherto suffering from a deficiency. Your Council has also made arrangements

with the same Company for the supply of Castle Eden Colliery village.

Wingate Lane is still without a supply. The scheme to supply water from Thornley has been found impracticable, and instructions have been given to bore and, if a supply be found, to sink a well.

A further examination of the Hawthorn supply showed that the source was good, but it was polluted in its conveyance and delivery. This was improved, and on analysis was found to be satisfactory.

At Trimdon Foundry and at Fallowfield two good sources were found to be similarly polluted and were both improved by structural alterations.

INSANITARY PROPERTY.—Under the housing of the Working Classes Act, 20 notices were served, but withdrawn when the requirements were complied with.

Under the Public Health Act, 30 notices were served for privy and ashpit accommodation, defective sinks, roofs and spouting. 200 verbal notices were also given for the removal of ashes, cleansing and piggeries.

BUTCHER SHOPS AND SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—There has been no increase of these, but existing places at the stores at Haswell, Murton and Station Town are considerably increased in size and require more supervision, as to removal of refuse and observance of cleanliness which has been satisfactory.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.—Two additional places have been registered, and one has been refused on account of the premises being unsuitable. There was one case of Enteric Fever at a milk-shop. The patient could not be removed, but the milk was removed from the house, and proper precautions observed.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.—The number and position of these remain unaltered. They are registered and carefully supervised by your Inspector. One prosecution was obtained for keeping an unregistered house.

Although some sanitary improvements are carried out every year, there is always much more that remains to be done. Sanitation is a constant improvement that can never cease. I should have been able to record more but for the unfortunate illness of your Surveyor.

The death rate, though lower than the average of past years, is still higher than that of the county, or of England and Wales. This is due to the very large number of deaths of children under one year, which is 32 per cent. greater than that of England and Wales. The cause of this is the enormous birth rate, which is much above the birth rate of the county, and 36 per cent. greater than that of England and Wales, and more than accounts for the difference in the death rate.

For the correction of Table A, there were 9 deaths in the Workhouse of persons belonging to Dawdon, and a body was found on the highway, which would lower the death rate to 19.30.

The area of the district is 36,942 acres, and the population 43,097.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES ARTHUR,

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Easington Rural District Council.

(A)

TABLE OF DEATHS during the year 1895, in the EASINGTON RURAL DISTRICT, classified according to
DISEASES, AGES and LOCALITIES

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	Mortality from all Causes, at subjoined ages								Mortality from subjoined Causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under Five Years of Age																			TOTAL			
	At all ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up-wards		Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup	Fevers						Cholera	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough	Diarrhoea and Dysentery	Rheumatic Fever	Phthisis	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy	Heart Disease		Influenza	Injuries	All other Diseases
													Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal														
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
Easington	53	8	5	2	3	19	16	Under 5 5 upwds.				1	1	1	1						1			5	10	4		1	15	8	13
Haswell	131	37	24	9	11	29	21	Under 5 5 upwds.		2				1	1		1					9	1	10	7	1		2	38	61	
								5 upwds.						2	1							1	1	10	3	8	2	3	38	70	
Shotton	41	24	3	1		5	8	Under 5 5 upwds.			1											4			2				20	27	
Castle Eden, Hawthorn, Burdon, Cold Hesleden, Dalton-le-Dale	31	16	3	2	1	4	5	Under 5 5 upwds.						1							1	4		3					11	19	
								5 upwds.															3			1		1	6	12	
East Murton	109	45	22	3	11	18	10	Under 5 5 upwds.						3						3	1	5			15			1	41	66	
								5 upwds.							3								1	9	3	3	1	3	20	43	
Kelloe	13	4	3	1	1	3	1	Under 5 5 upwds.												1					3				3	7	
								5 upwds.				1													2		1		1	2	6
Thornley	78	26	24	2	3	13	10	Under 5 5 upwds.				1		4							4		4	1	7				33	50	
								5 upwds.																2	3	3	1	3	12	28	
Wingate	154	68	23	8	10	32	13	Under 5 5 upwds.				1		3	1						5	9		13			1	61	90		
Monk Hesleden, Hutton Henry, Sheraton, Hulam, Nesbit	119	46	20	2	3	35	13	Under 5 5 upwds.		1		1							1			1	7		12	7	3	4	25	64	
								5 upwds.						1			1			1			1	15			1	36	66		
Seaham, Seaton, Slingley ..	113	44	18	7	6	24	14	Under 5 5 upwds.		2							2				2	10		7	11	1			31	64	
								5 upwds.						1			2							1	6	2	6	4	4	23	49
TOTALS	842	318	145	37	49	182	111	Under 5 5 upwds.		5	1	3		1	1		4		1	8	12	52	1	9	81	2	5	282	463		
								5 upwds.				2	1	16	3		4					2	5	46	46	38	13	25	177	379	

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1895, in the EASINGTON RURAL DISTRICT, classified according to DISEASES, AGES and LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	Population at all Ages		Registered Births	Aged under 5 or over 5	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health													Number of such Cases removed from their Homes in the several Localities for Treatment in Isolation Hospital												
	Census, 1891	Estimated to middle of 1895			Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Group	Fevers					Cholera	Erysipelas															
									Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal																	
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Workhouse	147	185	11	Under 5 5 upwds.																										
Easington (H)	1,115	1,471	29	Under 5 5 upwds.		4		1		1	1											1								
Haswell	6,276	6,846	270	Under 5 5 upwds.		25				1	4																			
				5 upwds.		49			2	15	16		2								2	1								
Shotton	1,975	2,385	102	Under 5 5 upwds.		9	1			1	1																			
				5 upwds.		11	2			3	5											8								
Castle Eden, Hawthorn, Burdon, Cold Hesleden, Dalton-le-Dale	2,556	3,063	88	Under 5 5 upwds.				1			4																			
East Murton	5,052	5,372	257	Under 5 5 upwds.							18	1										1								
Kelloe	976	906	28	Under 5 5 upwds.		3																								
				5 upwds.		12																2								
Thornley	2,070	2,966	125	Under 5 5 upwds.				1		1												1								
				5 upwds.					1	10	2																			
Wingate	4,463	7,103	362	Under 5 5 upwds.	1	7		1										1												
				5 upwds.		6		1		11	4											5								
Monk Hesleden, Hutton Henry, Sheraton, Hulam, Nesbit	7,154	6,165	240	Under 5 5 upwds.		18		1			1											2								
				5 upwds.		21				16	5		2									14		3						
Seaham, Seaton, Slingley ..	4,998	6,635	235	Under 5 5 upwds.		41																								
				5 upwds.		40				6	3											12								
TOTALS, ...	36,782	43,097	1,747	Under 5 5 upwds.	1	107	1	3		3	6								1											
				5 upwds.		145	3	2	3	84	37		4									50								

Notification of Infectious Diseases Act has been in force since 4th April, 1893. The Easington Rural Sanitary District Infectious Hospital is situated at Easington.

